BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

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- **Sales at BC food services and drinking places continue to decline in February**
- **Wine sales climb in 2010/11; sales of other alcoholic beverages down**
- **Canadian economy contracts slightly in February**

The Economy

- **Sales at British Columbia's food services and drinking places slipped 0.5% (*seasonally adjusted*) in February, marking the third consecutive monthly decline.**

Nationally, industry revenues inched forward 0.1%, attributable to slight increases in receipts for limited-service establishments (+0.3%) and special food services (+0.4%). Only four provinces registered higher sales in February, with Manitoba (+1.5%) posting the largest increase. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Liquor Sales

- **Imported beers are continuing to gain an increasingly strong foothold in the BC beer market.** Although overall beer sales slipped (-7.2%) in 2010/11, sales of domestic beer bore the brunt of the hit. The BC Liquor Distribution branch sold over 51 million litres of imported beer over the 12-month period, a slight decrease of 1.6% over the previous year. By comparison, domestic beer sales plunged 8.4%. Imported beer accounted for nearly 19% of total beer sales in 2010/11, notably more than the share recorded just four years prior (14% in 2006/07). In recent years, sales of imported beer have shown an upward trend, while sales of domestic beer have been more volatile.

Despite the decline in sales in 2010/11, with nearly three quarters (71%) of the total market share, beer is still by far the most popular product sold at liquor stores. Wine (16%), spirits (6%), and refreshments (7%) such as ciders and coolers account for smaller shares of the total volume sold. However, wine sales have been increasing. While sales of all other types of alcohol fell, sales in litres of wine increased by 2.1% over the 2009/10 fiscal year. Unlike beer, domestic and imported wines are relatively equal in popularity, though sales of domestic wines (+3.3%) increased substantially in 2010/11, whereas sales of imported wines were up only slightly (+0.7%). *Data Source: BC Liquor Distribution Branch*

Gambling

- **In the 2010/2011 fiscal year, approximately 63% of British Columbians aged 19 or older played a lottery or visited a BC casino, bingo hall or community gaming centre at least once a month.**

The British Columbia Lottery Corporation (BCLC) generated nearly $2.7 billion in revenue from the province's casinos, lotteries and bingo halls in 2010/11. From this revenue, just over $652 million was paid out to lottery and bingo winners, and a further $842 million went to commissions & service fees, taxes and other operating-related expenses. Of the remaining net income (just over $1.1 billion), most went to the provincial government, with more than half going into consolidated revenue ($692 million). Charitable & community organizations received $135 million.

BC is home to approximately 4,000 lottery retailers, 17 casinos, 11 bingo halls, 16 community gaming centres and two racecourse casinos. The largest prize ever won in BC ($50 million) was awarded in 2010/11. *Data Source: British Columbia Lottery Corporation*

Report **No report this issue**

Did you know...

British Columbians say that their biggest pet peeves at the movie theatre are people who talk during the movie (33%) and people who kick the back of the seat (18%).

Source: Ipsos Canada

Agriculture

- **The area in BC dedicated to growing greenhouse products continued to expand in 2011, reaching 57 million square feet. Sales of greenhouse, sod and nursery products grown in the province exceeded $558 million last year, up from $537 million in 2010.** BC's greenhouse, sod and nursery industry is the second biggest in the country, after Ontario, where sales reached over $1.4 billion in 2011. The national total was $2.5 billion.

  Greenhouse fruits & vegetables (primarily tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce and peppers) accounted for the biggest share of total revenues in BC, with sales adding up to $265 million in 2011. The principal markets for these products are domestic wholesalers ($120 million in 2011) and mass market chain stores ($95 million). Ornamental flower and plant sales by BC producers were valued at $260 million in 2011. *Data Source: S. C. Cat. #82-003-XWE*

Work Safe

- **A total of 136,742 new work-related injuries were reported to the Workers' Compensation Board in 2010, a 3.4% decrease from the claims reported in 2009.** There were 185 work-related fatalities in 2010, 11 more than in the previous year. Although the number of work-related deaths was up in 2010, it remained significantly lower than in 2006, when 274 people were killed on the job.

  Data Source: Statistics 2010, WorkSafeBC

Technology at the Workplace

- **Most Canadian employees report having access to the Internet at work (76%) and 13% have a smartphone provided by their employer.** More than four out of ten Canadian employees (42%) create moments during their day when they ignore contact like phone and e-mail, while 43% feel they fall short if they don't respond to e-mail and phone communications immediately. Interestingly, most (68%) Canadian workers prefer face-to-face contact to other communication methods, such as phone and/or email.

  Data Source: Randstad Canada

The Nation

- **The Canadian economy lost ground in February, with real GDP falling 0.2% (*seasonally adjusted*).** This marked the first month since November 2011 in which the Canadian economy has contracted.

  Goods producing industries fell back 1.0% in February, as manufacturing (-1.2%), mining, oil & gas extraction (-1.6%) and other industries in the sector posted declines. Utilities (-1.9%) was hardest hit. GDP in the service sector was up slightly, marking the tenth straight month in which the sector has shown strength. Wholesale (+1.5%) and finance, insurance & real estate (+0.4%) were the only industries to make any significant gains, outweighing declines in the retail trade and the transportation & warehousing sectors.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Canadian manufacturers' selling prices were 0.9% higher this March than in the same month last year.** The increase was mostly attributable to climbing prices for petroleum & coal (+4.2%) products. Prices for chemicals (+1.4%), motor vehicles & other transportation equipment (+1.6%) and fruit, vegetables, feeds & other food products (+2.6%) were also higher than in March of 2011. However, increases were tempered significantly by a fifth consecutive month of lower prices for primary metals (-5.7%).

  BC producers of softwood lumber products received more (+2.2%) for their lumber than they had a year earlier. Prices for Interior lumber (+2.8%) were markedly higher, but up only slightly for Coastal producers (+0.6%).

  In March, the cost of raw materials slipped (-5.6%) for the first time since October of 2009. The acute decline was due mostly to an 8.3% slide in prices for mineral fuels. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

***Infoline** Issue: 12-18*
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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/2012	% change on one year ago
BC	4,597.9	1.0
Canada	34,670.4	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 8)		
(BC - at market prices)	2010	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	203,147	5.9
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	167,140	3.0
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,899	1.4
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	26,166	2.2
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Feb 2012	3,199	1.0
Merchandise Exports - Feb 2012	2,766	5.3
Retail Sales - Feb 2012	5,136	0.4
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Mar 2012)	one year ago	% change
BC	1.6	2.2
Vancouver	1.8	2.1
Victoria	1.5	2.0
Canada	1.9	2.8
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Mar 2012	% change on prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	-1.7	
Labour Force - BC	2,471.8	0.0
Employed - BC	2,299.1	-0.1
Unemployed - BC	172.7	0.7
		Feb 2012
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.0	6.9
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.2	7.4
INTEREST RATES (percent)	May 2/2012	May 4/2011
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.20	3.70
- 5 year	5.44	5.69
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	May 2/2012	May 4/2011
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9891	0.9580
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0137	1.0433
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Mar 2012	% change on one year ago
BC	858.29	3.7
Canada	859.73	2.7

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

New RSS Feeds From BC Stats

BC Stats has published several new RSS feeds, including: Aboriginal Peoples, Business and Industry, Census, Economic Statistics, Education, Environment, Geography and Mapping, Income, Pensions, Spending and Wealth, International and Interprovincial Trade, Labour, Population, Demography and Immigration, and more.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Help/RSSFeeds.aspx

The 2011 National Household Survey

Release dates have been set as:

May 8, 2013
- Immigration; Citizenship; Place of birth; Language; Ethnic origin; Visible minorities; Religion; Aboriginal Peoples

June 26, 2013
- Labour; Education; Place of work; Commuting to work; Mobility and migration; Language of work

August 14, 2013
- Income; Earnings; Housing; Shelter costs

http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/index-eng.cfm

Census 2011 Fast Facts

According to the 2011 census, compared to other provinces, BC's population growth was second only to Alberta over the 2006 to 2011 period. In May of 2011, the census counted 4,400,057 persons in BC, up 286,570 (+7.0%) from the 2006 count. Read more on the 2011 Census page:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/2011Census.aspx

Released this week by BC Stats

- No periodicals

Next week

- Labour Force Statistics, April 2012
- Earnings & Employment Trends, April 2012

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